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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
DODE-00 NSCE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 SSO-00
/069 W
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O 272230Z APR 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7220
INFO AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 02192

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: REPORT OF CANADIAN AMBASSADOR'S
CONVERSATION WITH VAN HEERDEN

REF: STATE 107556

1. A. ADVOKAAT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS
IN EXTAFF PASSED TO US FULL TEXT OF TELEGRAM FROM
CANADIAN EMBASSY CAPETOWN, FROM WHICH EXCERPT IN PARA 1
OF REFTEL WAS DRAWN. (WE MADE NO MENTION THAT WE HAD
ALREADY SEEN EXCERPT.)

2. BEGIN TEXT: IN A LENGTHY PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH
VAN HEERDEN, (DFA SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO FM BOTHA) LAST
NIGHT, THE FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED:

"(A) HE ASSURED ME THAT SAG HAD NOT/NOT ACCEPTED THE
WESTERN PROPOSALS IN THE EXPECTATION OR HOPE THAT SWAPO
WOULD REJECT THEM.
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"(B) HE CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS A SPLIT IN THE CABINET
OVER WHETHER OR NOT/NOT OUR PROPOSALS SHOULD BE ACCEPTED
BUT PM VORSTER, AFTER GIVING EVERYONE A CHANCE TO OPPOSE
THEM (MOST WERE SILENT), HAD PROCLAIMED THAT SAG WOULD
SUPPORT THEM.

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"(C) HE TOLD ME THAT SAG NOW BELIEVED THAT (CONTRARY TO THEIR PREVIOUS THOUGHTS) THE UK, CANADA AND FRANCE, IN THAT ORDER, WERE THE MOST OBJECTIVE NEGOTIATORS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE WESTERN PROPOSALS.

"(D) HE SAID THAT HE COULD TELL ME UNRESERVEDLY THAT SA WOULD, ABOVE ALL OTHERS, VERY MUCH LIKE CANADIAN FORCES TO BE PART OF THE UN CONTINGENT IN NAMIBIA (DESPITE OUR MEASURES ANNOUNCED IN DEC (EMBASSY OTTAWA COMMENT - RELATING TO TRADE)). HE VOLUNTEERED TO SEEK HIGHER AUTHORITY TO GIVE ME A SIGNAL TO THIS EFFECT. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN PRETORIA BY THE THREE FOREIGN MINS WAS THAT NO/NO BLACK FORCES WOULD BE STATIONED ON THE ANGOLAN BORDER AS PART OF THE UN FORCE.

"(E) HE CONFIDED TO ME THAT THE DECISION TO SUPPORT THE WESTERN PROPOSALS BY FM BOTHA WAS A CALCULATED RISK BY BOTHA IN WHICH HE WAS PREPARED TO RESIGN IF HE HAD NOT/NOT SUCCEEDED.

"(F) VAN HERRDEN TOLD ME THAT DU PLESSIS (HEAD OF SWAS NATIONALIST PARTY AND AKTUR) HAD SEEN THE PM YESTERDAY AND, AS A RESULT, HAD AGREED TO SUPPORT THE GOVT (AND THE WESTERN) POSITION. I CAUTIONED AGAINST MAKING THIS TOO PUBLIC AT THIS TIME BUT VAN HEERDEN SAID THIS DECISION CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD MAKE THE GOVTS POSITION IN SA MUCH EASIER FOR THE PEOPLE, AND PARTY, TO ACCEPT.

"(G) I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OUR INTIMATE CONVERSATION TO STRESS THAT SAG SHOULD DO NOTHING TO MAKE OUR TASK MORE DIFFICULT IN THE FORTHCOMING UNSC DEBATE. HE TOOK THE POINT.

"(H) VAN HEERDEN TOLD ME THAT FOREIGN SECTY FOURIE WAS VERY PLEASED WHEN HE WAS TOLD WHAT THE SSEA HAD SAID TO THE UNGA ABOUT SAGS ACCEPTANCE OF THE WESTERN PROPOSALS.

"2. I BELIEVE THAT THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL BE CRITICAL-- AT LEAST INSOFAR AS SAG IS CONCERNED. THE WAY WE HANDLE WALVIS BAY IN THE UNSC WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT. VAN HEERDEN VOLUNTEERED THAT, FROM SAGS POINT OF VIEW, THEY WERE PURPOSELY DOWN-PLAYING WALVIS BAY. WHEN I SAID THAT SOME OR ALL OF THE FIVE MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE STATEMENTS IN THE UNSC TO THE EFFECT THAT OUR GOVTS BELIEVED THAT WALVIS BAY SHOULD BECOME PART OF NAMIBIA, THIS DID NOT/NOT DISTURB VAN HEERDEN AT ALL. IN FACT HE ASKED ME IF I HAD NOTICED THAT FOURIE HAD BEEN TRYING TO GIVE US A

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SIGNAL TO THIS EFFECT IN RECENT DAYS. END TEXT.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, BRIEFING MATERIALS, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OTTAWA02192
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780181-0095
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780410/aaaaahqw.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 373fb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 107556
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2814405
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: REPORT OF CANADIAN AMBASSADOR\'S CONVERSATION WITH VAN HEERDEN
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, US, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/373fb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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